

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/530,723
Attorney Docket No. 60027.0390USWO/BS97055

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-20 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 9, and 18 are independent. In the Final Office Action dated May 16, 2006, Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Following this response, Claims 1-20 remain in this application. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Final Office Action dated May 16, 2006, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,205,214 (“Cull”i”), in view of U.S. Patent No.5,917,899 (“Moss”), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,341,162 (“Kelly”). Claims 1, 9, and 18 have been amended and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments overcome this rejection and add no new matter.

Amended Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, for example, “the routing information identifying a location specified by the carrier for handling the call, wherein the routing information comprises a single set of line class codes assigned to all resold lines, wherein the line class codes reference a trunk group to the hub.” Amended Claims 9 and 18 each contain a similar recitation. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at least on page 3, line 29 through page 4, line 5.

Consistent with an embodiment of the present invention calls may be made from resold lines terminating an AIN or non-AIN switches. (See page 3, lines 29-30.) The switch uses line class code tables to determine the proper routing for the call. (See page 3, lines 30-31.) Rather than use multiple sets of line class codes for each service provider, this invention uses a single set of line class codes for all resold lines. (See page 3, line 31 through page 4, line 1.) The line class codes for resold lines reference the AIN hub. (See page 4, lines 1-2.) Unlike previous methods, valuable storage space and memory within the switch are not consumed by the addition of resold lines. (See page 4, lines 1-3.) Instead, resold lines are all assigned the single set of line

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class codes that reference a trunk group to the AIN hub. (See page 4, lines 3-4.) Thus, this invention is a more efficient alternative for service providers. (See page 4, lines 4-5.)

In contrast, *Culli* at least does not disclose the aforementioned recitation. For example, *Culli* discloses a local routing system which includes a classifier, a determiner, and a router. (See col. 2, lines 30-31.) The classifier analyzes a dialed number and categorizes a call into one of several predetermined classes of traffic. (See col. 2, lines 31-33.) The determiner determines whether a local service provider has a routing preference for the class of traffic into which the classifier has placed the call. (See col. 2, lines 35-37.) The router routes the traffic to a destination according to the local service provider's routing preference if a routing preference exists for the class of traffic into which the classifier placed the call. (See col. 2, lines 38-41.) *Culli* does not disclose the use of a single set of line class codes to route calls, at least because *Culli* is silent regarding use class codes let alone the use of a single set of line class codes.

In addition, *Moss* does not overcome *Culli*'s deficiencies. *Moss* merely discloses a method using an advanced intelligent network to seamlessly connect a plurality of virtual networks. (See Abstract, lines 1-2.) In *Moss*, first a number of dialed digits are received at a first service switching point in a first local access and transport area. (See Abstract, lines 3-5.) Second, the first service switching point is determined to be a hub service switching point and sends a query to a service control point. (See Abstract, lines 5-7.) Next, a determination is made as to whether the dialed digits require an access to private networks. (See Abstract, lines 7-9.) Lastly, when the dialed digits require access to the private network, the call is routed over a tie line to a second hub service switching point in a second local access and transport area. (See Abstract, lines 9-12.) Like *Culli*, *Moss* does not disclose the use of a single set of line class codes to route calls, at least because *Moss* is silent regarding use class codes let alone the use of a single set of line class codes.

Moreover, *Kelly* does not overcome *Culli* and *Moss*'s deficiencies. *Kelly* merely discloses that a DP's arming information is retained within a SSP. (See col. 4, lines 35-37.) The arming information is used to record whether or not each DP is armed and therefore indicates whether or not referral needs to be made to an SCP for DP processing and possibly execution of

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the service logic. (See col. 4, lines 37-40.) The information will allow the SSP to make a decision on whether or not to suspend call processing whilst referring to the SCP for DP processing or execution of service logic. (See col. 4, lines 43-45.) Like *Culli and Moss, Kelly* does not disclose the use of a single set of line class codes to route calls, at least because *Kelly* is silent regarding use class codes let alone the use of a single set of line class codes.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention eliminates the use of multiple sets of class codes used to provide routing information for resold lines with a single set of class codes. The single set of class codes still retains the function of the multiple sets of class codes without affecting the performance of routing phone calls. In fact, the claimed invention is more efficient and helps to preserve valuable storage space and memory within the switch. Therefore, the addition of newly resold lines is simplified.

Omission of an element with retention of the element's function is an indicia of unobviousness. (See MPEP §2144.04(II)(B); *In re Edge*, 359 F.2d 896, 149 USPQ 556 (CCPA 1966).) (Claims at issue were directed to a printed sheet having a thin layer of erasable metal bonded directly to the sheet wherein said thin layer obscured the original print until removal by erasure. The prior art disclosed a similar printed sheet which further comprised an intermediate transparent and erasure-proof protecting layer which prevented erasure of the printing when the top layer was erased. The claims were found unobvious over the prior art because the transparent layer of the prior art was eliminated, the function of the transparent layer was retained since appellant's metal layer could be erased without erasing the printed indicia.) Because amended Claim 1 omits multiple sets of class codes and replaces them with a single set of class codes, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Amended Claims 9 and 18 include a similar recitation as Amended Claim 1 and are thus allowable at least for the same reasons.

Dependent Claims 2-8, 10-17, and 19-20 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding independent Claims 1, 9, and 18, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claims 1, 9, or 18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-8, 10-17, and 19-20.

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CONCLUSION

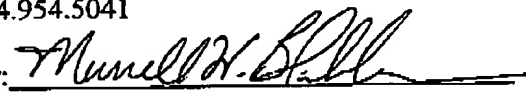
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully requests the reconsideration and continued examination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability. Furthermore, the Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement of characterization in the Office Action. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to deposit account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

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